

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: Pa-2718

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: 1-105-1110
Name: US 1 over Little Gunpowder Falls

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended X

Eligibility Not Recommended

Criteria: A B ~~C~~ D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Comments:

Reviewer, OPS: Anne E. Bruder

Date: 3 April 2001

Reviewer, NR Program: Peter E. Kurtze

Date: 3 April 2001

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Historic Bridge Inventory
Maryland State Highway Administration
Maryland Historical Trust

MHT Number BA-2718

Name and SHA No. 3001

Location:

Street/Road Name and Number: US Route 1 over Little Gunpowder Falls

City/Town: Reckord Vicinity X

County: Baltimore

Ownership: X State County Municipal Other

This bridge projects over: Road Railway X Water Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district: yes X no

 NR listed district NR determined eligible district

 locally designated other

Name of District

Bridge Type:

 Timber Bridge
 Beam Bridge Truss-Covered Trestle
 Timber-and-Concrete

 Stone Arch

 Metal Truss

 Movable Bridge
 Swing Bascule Single Leaf Bascule Multiple Leaf
 Vertical Lift Retractable Pontoon

X Metal Girder
 Rolled Girder X Rolled Girder Concrete Encased
 Plate Girder Plate Girder Concrete Encased

 Metal Suspension

 Metal Arch

☐ Metal Cantilever

☐ Concrete

☐ Concrete Arch ☐ Concrete Slab ☐ Concrete Beam

☐ Rigid Frame

☐ Other Type Name _____

Description:

Describe Setting:

Bridge Number 3001 carries U.S. 1 in a generally north-south direction over the Little Gunpowder Falls in the Baltimore County, Maryland. The approach to the roadway is level and has four lanes. The area around this bridge is wooded and rural. This area is part of the Gunpowder Falls State Park.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge number 3001 is a single span structure, measuring 68 feet in total length. The roadway width from curb to curb is 28 feet and the total deck width is 46 feet. There are sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the width of each is four feet.

The superstructure is composed of a concrete encased steel rolled girder. There is one spans in the main bridge unit and no approach units. The span is 68 feet long. The floor system is composed of concrete cast-in-place. The joints are made of a preformed expansion material. There are two rectangular concrete parapets. The parapets are ornate with open balustrades, these are in poor condition. There is a historical plaque which commemorates the construction of this bridge in 1934.

The substructure is composed of concrete full height abutments the wing walls are also concrete. There are no piers or columns. There is no ornamentation. There are no historical plaques on the substructure.

The condition of this bridge is currently rated good, with some minor scour problems. The balustrade has deteriorated and is rated unacceptable and should be replaced.

Discuss Major Alterations: There have been no major alterations to this structure.

History:**When Built:** 1934**Why Built:** Increased traffic density necessitated a structure with an increased load capacity.**Who Built:** State Roads Commission**Why Altered:****Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:** Yes, a statewide road improvement program.**Surveyor Analysis:****This bridge may have NR significance for association with:**☐ A Events ☐ Person☐ C Engineering/Architectural**Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:**

Increasing growth of vehicular traffic rates paralleled the growth of state-owned and state-aided highways. The 1930's brought a dramatic increase in the number of tractor-trailers and other heavy vehicles. The Maryland State Roads Commission began to emphasize standardized designs. Old, one way bridges and other inadequate designs were often replaced by steel girder design bridges.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

Yes. Bridge 3001 had a significant impact. Belair Road (U.S. 1) has been an important north-south transportation route for centuries and a safe bridge across the Gunpowder Falls is vital. The ability to access the markets and employment potential of Baltimore City would have been seriously limited to locals had this bridge not been built. The steady outward growth of Baltimore City necessitated the steady growth of a sufficient transportation network. The construction of bridge 3001 would have been a significant part of this development. The neighborhoods of this area would have all been directly impacted.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from historic and visual character of the possible district?

Yes. Bridge 3001 is located in an area that has had an important and significant impact on the history of Baltimore, Maryland. The Gunpowder Falls area is a vital segment of Baltimore County history. This structure served both these neighborhoods. Several areas along Gunpowder Falls already are eligible for historic designation and the expansion of any or all of these areas might would entail the inclusion of this bridge. The loss of this bridge would negatively impact the historic and visual significance of these areas.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Yes. Bridge 3001 is a common type of metal girder bridge. Metal girder bridges were built prolifically in Maryland from the late nineteenth century to the present day. There is nothing to set this bridge apart from others of its type. There are numerous other examples of this bridge available.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

Yes. Bridge Number 3001 does retain important elements of its historical structural integrity. The primary character defining elements are the concrete encased rolled steel girders and concrete abutments.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and Why?

Yes. Bridge 3001 should be studied further to determine its eligibility for the National Register. A Significance analysis should be made following the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

Under criteria A, Bridge 3001 should be studied in the context of its historical significance. This bridge can be associated with the development of the neighborhoods of Gunpowder Falls. Further study should be made to determine its significance to the pattern of events and trends toward urbanization and industrialization that are characterized by the era of its construction. A determination of the significance of its location should include the nature and origin of the property it is constructed on. This should include previous structures and the history of that area as a crossing.

Under criteria C, the distinctive characteristics of this bridge should be studied to include the type, period, and method of construction.

Under criteria D, the potential for information of Bridge 3001 should be studied further. This structure was built during a period of intense urbanization and industrialization in Maryland and the country as a whole.

Bibliography:

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1900-15 **Annual Report of the Chief Engineer.** Baltimore, Maryland.

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1917-24 **Annual Report of the Highways Engineer.** Baltimore, Maryland.

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1976 **Bicentennial Byways: A Series of Articles on the Maryland Roads.** Baltimore, Maryland.

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1970-95 **Historic Resources Survey Form Files.** Maryland Historical Trust Library. Crownsville, Maryland.

Spero, P.A.C. & Company, and Louis Berger & Associates
1994 **Historic Bridges in Maryland: Historic Bridge Context.** Baltimore, Maryland.

State Highway Administration
1993 **Bridge Inventory.** Baltimore, Maryland.

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1990 **National Register Bulletin Number 15.** National Park Service. Washington D.C.

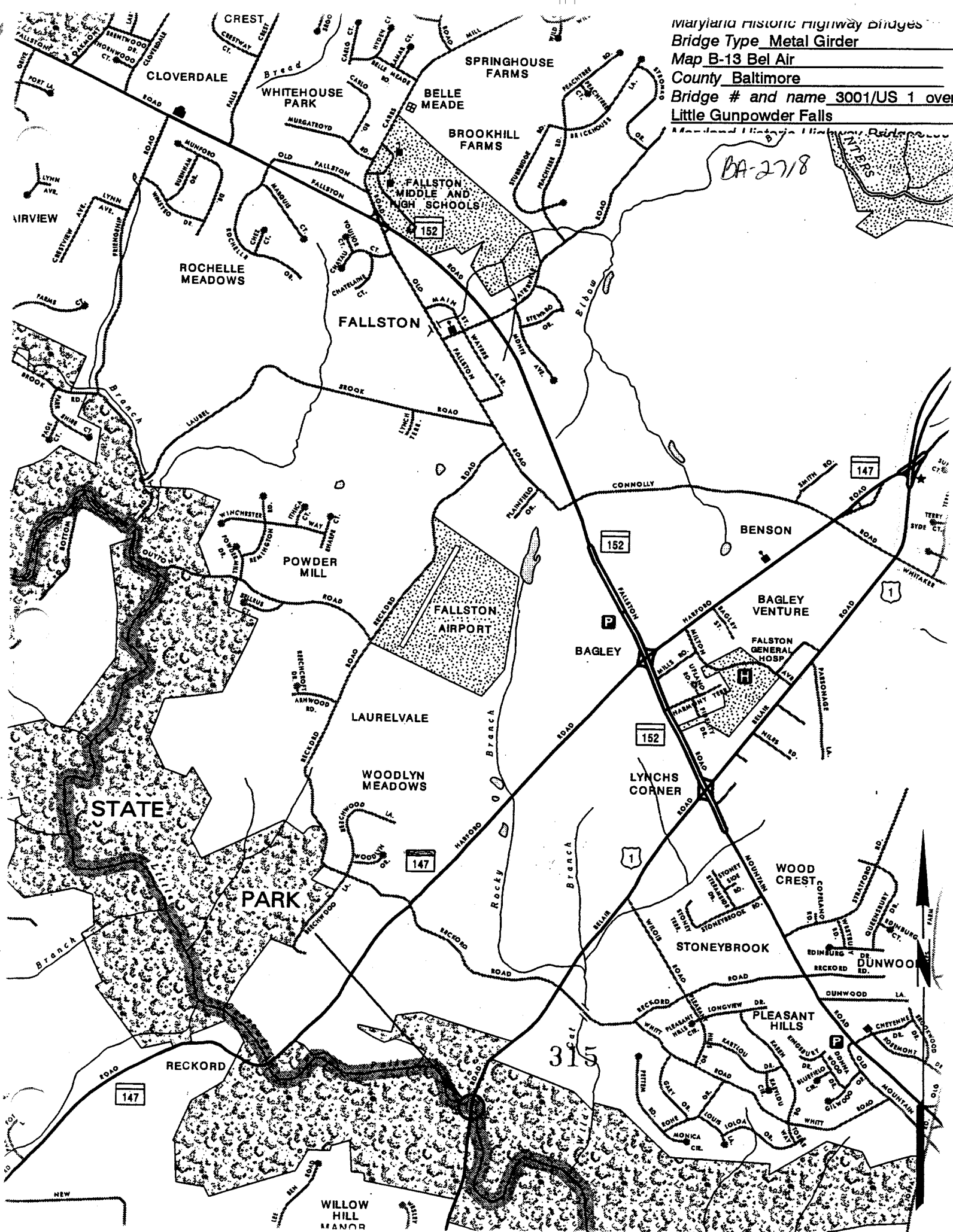
U.S. Department of Transportation
1991 **Bridge Inspectors Manual.** Federal Highway Administration. Washington D.C.

Surveyor:

Name: Andrew M. Watts **Date:** March 1996
Organization: State Highway Administration **Telephone:** (410) 321-2213
Address: 2323 West Joppa Road, Brooklandville, MD 21022

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type Metal Girder
Map B-13 Bel Air
County Baltimore
Bridge # and name 3001/US 1 over
Little Gunpowder Falls

BA-2718





Inventory # BA-2718

Name 3001-US1 OVER LITTLE GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH APPROACH LOOKING
NORTHEAST

Number 118 of 206



Inventory # BA-2718

Name 3001-US1 OVER LITTLE GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MO

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description WEST ELEVATION LOOKING
SOUTHEAST

Number 2 of 366



Inventory # BA-2718

Name 3001-US1 OVER LITTLE GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description EAST ELEVATION LOOKING
NORTH

Number 3 of 306

LITTLE CONWAY FALLS BRIDGE

1917 - 1934

STATE ROADS COMMISSION

C. GUNTON VEH. - CHAIRMAN

BROOKS LEE - ROBERT LACY

E. D. WILDER - CHIEF ENGINEER

W. C. HOPKINS - BRIDGE ENGINEER

Inventory # BA-2718

Name 3001- US1 OVER LITTLE GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

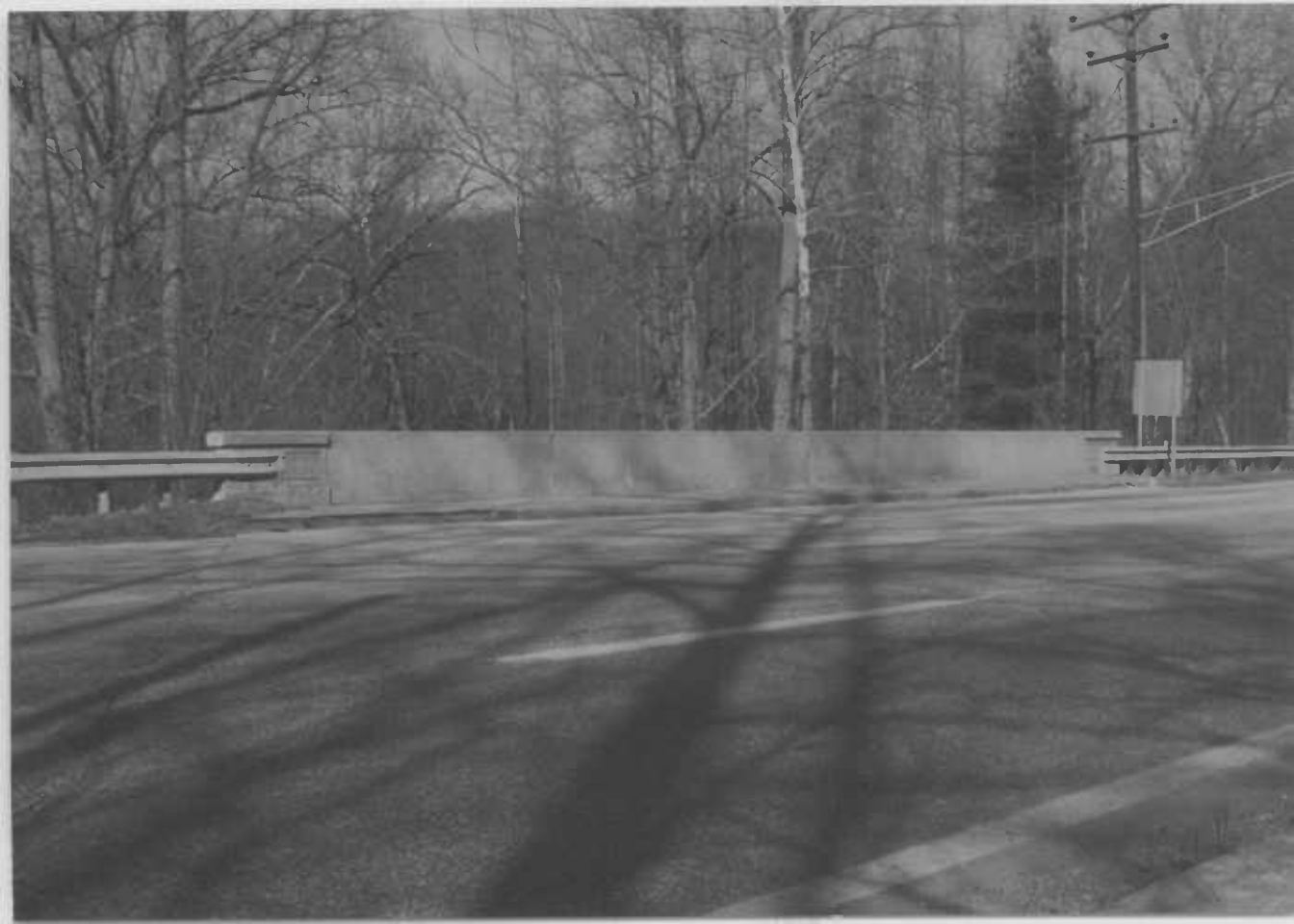
Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description PLAQUE ON WEST PARAPET

Number 4 ¹⁸ of 36 ⁶



Inventory # BA-2718

Name 3001-US1 OVER LITTLE GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description ALTERED EAST PARAPET

Number 5 of 30



Inventory # BA-2718

Name 3001-US1 OVER LITTLE GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description NORTH APPROACH LOOKING
SOUTHWEST

Number 6 20 of 6 20